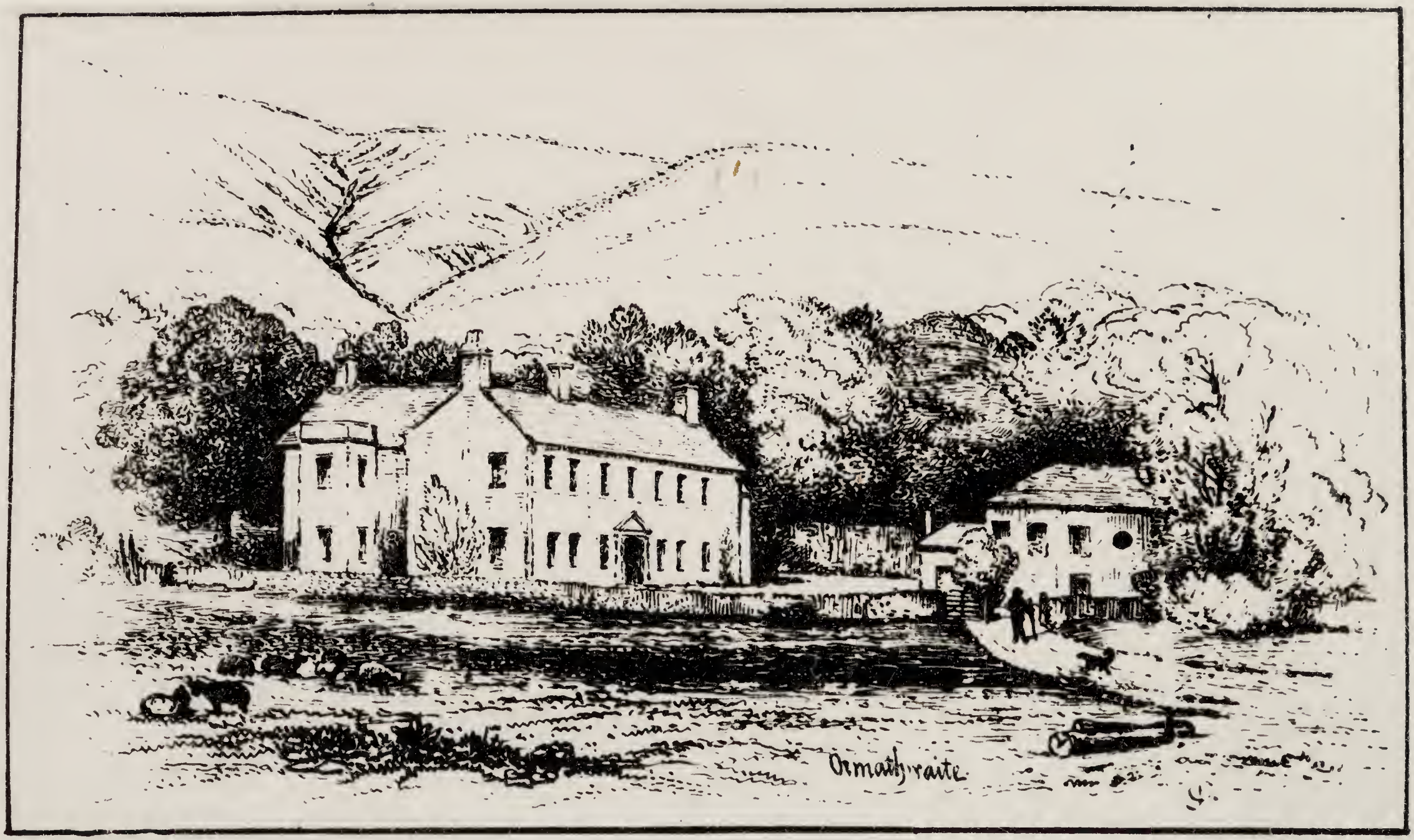
BIOGRAPHY

CROSTHWAITE, J. Hobson

[Biographical notes]

1857-8.


Ormathwaite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SOME OF THE OLD FAMILIES IN THE PARISH OF CROSTHWAITE:

THE BROWNRIGGS OF ORMATHWAITE, &c.

By J. FISHER CROSTHWAITE, F.S.A.

(Read before the Keswick Society.)

In undertaking another paper on the Old Families in the Parish of Crosthwaite, I find that I have undertaken a more difficult task than I anticipated. The materials are scanty, and the time required in searching for them is more than I have had at my disposal. I have, however, decided to draw your attention in this paper to the family of Brownrigg, and to give you such facts as I have been able to gather, which I hope may not prove altogether uninteresting to the members of this Society. For this information I naturally go first to the parish registers. We here find the different estates upon which the family resided before they finally settled at Ormathwaite, where the last of the family, William Brownrigg, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., so long resided, and died in the first year of the present century, leaving no descendants.

The first burial of which I have a note is dated—

"1607, Feb. 23rd.—Christopher Brownrigge of Milnbecke."

Then follows :—

"1640, March 20th.—William Brownrigg of Milnbeck. Quier."

"1669, July 22nd.—William Brownrigg of Milnbeck. Quire."

The first Brownrigge of Ormathwaite mentioned is—

"1677, Sept. 1.—An Brownrigge of Ormathwaite. Quire."

Then follow :—

"1681, Feb. 22nd.—Gawine Brownrigge of Milnbeck. Quire."

"1681, Mch. 20th.—Richard Brownerigge, son of George. Quire."

"1683, Feb. 10th.—John Brownerigge of High Rowe. In Church."

"1684, Aug. 24th.—Isabell Brownerigge. In Quire."

"1686, Aug. 16th.—Elizabeth Brownerigge, wife of George. Quire."

"1691, Feb. 1.—George Brownerigge wife. Quire."

"1695, March 16th.—George Brownrigge daughter. Quire."

In the register of births we find the Brownriggs at Scalebeck, and at the Green, now called Underscar :—

"Baptism, 1575-6, Jan. 22nd—Of John Brownrigg, son of Christopher Brownrigg of Skelbeck and Janet his wife."

"1577, April 28.—William Brownrigg, son of Christopher Brownrigg of Skilbeck and Janet his wife."

"1582, Feb. 18.—Christopher Brownrigge, son of Christopher Brownrigge of Grene and Janet his wife."

"1585, July 25th.—Mabell Brownrigg, daughter of Christopher Brownrigg and Janet his wyfe."

From the foregoing entries it would seem that the Brownriggs resided upon different farms in Underskiddaw, all of which ultimately became the property of the family, and possibly they were the original owners, except Millbeck Hall, which from the inscription on a stone over the front door,* shows that in the year 1592 it was the property of Nicholas Williamson. After that date, it also became their property.

Like many other Cumberland families, the Brownriggs had descendants who settled in Ireland. Notably, Henry Brownrigg, of Yerton in Cumberland, who was the first of a family settled at Rockingham in the county of Wicklow. His second son Robert, a General officer in the Army, a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, and Governor of Landguard Fort, was created a Baronet March 9th, 1816. He was succeeded by his grandson, Sir Robert James

* The inscription is as follows :—

1592. QVORSVM, MW
VIVERE-MORI-MORI-VIVERE.
NICHOLAS WILLIAMSON.

Brownrigg, as second baronet, 27th of May, 1833, and was living in 1850. I mention this family, because George Brownrigg of Ormathwaite married Mary Brownrigg, daughter of Henry Brownrigg, Esq., of Wingfield, in Ireland.

The Brownriggs always held a prominent position in the parish of Crosthwaite, and their names are found as taking part in all parochial business.

In 1735 we find George Brownrigg one of the eighteen sworn men, governors of the ancient Free School; and in the year 1749 we have *Mr.* George Brownrigg acting as foreman of the Trustees.

In the year 1693, we have this remarkable combination of names, each acting as trustees of the Free School, viz., Thomas Calvert, Daniel Stanger, and Francis Raisley. The only representative of these three names now left in the parish is Mrs. Stanger of Fieldside.

The last of the Brownriggs of Ormathwaite was William Brownrigg, M.D., F.R.S., whose medical education commenced at London, where he attended medical lectures two years. He then proceeded to Leyden, and had the degree of Doctor of Medicine conferred upon him in 1737. He was born at Highclose Hall, in Cumberland, March 24th, 1711, and was therefore twenty-six years of age when he took his degree. To that university, which had obtained unrivalled celebrity, medical students generally resorted; and from it they derived the greatest improvement and the highest honours in their profession. In this learned seminary, the doctor remained several years, and studied the theory and practice of physic, anatomy, botany, and experimental philosophy, under the auspices of their respective most illustrious professors—Boerhaave, Albinus, Van Royen, and others. To these, his intimate friends and revered preceptors, he dedicated with affection and respect his elaborate thesis, *De Praxi Medica incunda*; an enquiry well adapted to the situation of one who, conversant with the theory, was about to engage in the practice of medicine.

As soon as Dr. Brownrigg had entered upon the practice of medicine at Whitehaven, he began with judgment and perseverance to put in execution the plan which he had laid down; and among


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other enquiries, the damps or exhalations arising in coal mines with which that town is surrounded, appeared to him deserving of careful and accurate examination. So extraordinary were these effects, that he employed much of his leisure time in investigating their properties. Earnestly solicited by the late Sir James Lowther, Bart., proprietor of the mines, to engage in this arduous undertaking, he was encouraged in the prosecution of it by motives of humanity, justly supposing that a more extensive acquaintance with subterraneous exhalations might lead to the discovery of some more effectual method for preventing their dreadful consequences, and for rendering them less fatal and destructive.

With a view to excite the attention of philosophers to such subjects, and to promote a spirit of experimental enquiry, he wrote several essays on those exhalations, which, in the year 1741, were presented by Sir James Lowther to the Royal Society of London, by whom they were received with distinguished approbation; and the doctor was in consequence unanimously elected a member of that learned body. To these essays, then transmitted to the Royal Society, he added, in the year 1746, another, in the form of a letter to Sir James Lowther, containing an account of a laboratory which he had erected in the neighbourhood of Whitehaven. By favour of Sir James Lowther, it was supplied with a constant stream of inflammable air, or fire damp. In this laboratory many curious experiments were made upon that subtile body; and by its application, as a substitute for fire, several chemical operations performed, requiring a long continued and determined degree of heat. According to a method discovered by Mr. Carlisle Spedding, the fire damp was conveyed up an adjacent pit, from which it was conducted through a leaden pipe to Dr. Brownrigg's laboratory. For its reception he invented several furnaces of such construction as to be capable of affording the most intense, or the most gentle, heat. In the prosecution of his inquiries he experienced occasional interruptions from certain irregularities in the quantity and motion of the fire damp, which were the effect of

a sudden transition of the atmosphere, either from a rarified to a dense, or from a dense to a rarified state.

The honour which the Royal Society proposed to confer upon Dr. Brownrigg, by inserting these essays in their Philosophical Transactions, was declined by him, as it was his intention to publish them on some future occasion, enlarged and improved by many additions and corrections.

Desirous also that his observations should be confirmed not only by his own experiments, but by the attestation of others, he solicited and received the opinions of many of his literary friends, particularly of Sir Hans Sloan and Dr. Hales. Furnished with necessary materials, and qualified for the execution of so difficult a task by his indefatigable perseverance and his attachment to chemical philosophy, he long had it in agitation to write a general history of fire damps. With this motive, he retired from his professional avocations to his paternal seat, Ormathwaite. The outlines of his history of damps having been sent to Dr. Hales for his private perusal, were submitted by that celebrated philosopher to the inspection of the Royal Society; but, notwithstanding the importunities of those who were able to appreciate their merits, he could never be prevailed upon to give his consent to their publication. An incontestable argument, however, of his attention to the properties of damps, and the deference which was paid to his judgment, arises from his being frequently consulted when an explosion in mines was apprehended. By observing the degree of rapidity with which the mercury descended in the barometer, he could foretell the exact period of an explosion; and his predictions were too often verified by some melancholy event.

The only work which he permitted to be published on the subject of damps was, "An Extract of an Essay on the Uses of a Knowledge of Mineral Exhalations, when applied to discover the principles and properties of mineral waters, the nature of burning fountains, and those poisonous lakes called Averni." This ingenious tract was read before the Royal Society in April, 1741. The object of it is to prove that the distinguishing qualities of mineral waters depend on a particular kind of air which forms a consider-

able part of their composition; and that this air differs in no respect from the choke- or fire damp.

This experimental enquiry was considered by the Royal Society of so singular and important a nature, that to the ingenious author of it, as the best publication of the year, Sir Godfrey Copley's honorary medal was adjudged.

In the year 1748, Dr. Brownrigg published his valuable work entitled, "The Art of Making Common Salt, as now practised in most parts of the world; with several Improvements in that Art for the use of the British Dominions." He was prompted to undertake this arduous task from a general desire which at that period prevailed in the nation to promote and extend the British fisheries, and, by this measure, to find profitable employment not only for great numbers of seamen who, on the restoration of peace, had been discharged from the service of their country, but also for the natives of the north of Scotland.

Dr. Campbell in his political survey of Great Britain, noticing Dr. Brownrigg's treatise upon Salt, calls it "a very learned, ingenious, and solid performance, than which," he adds, "there is not perhaps anything more concise or more correct in any language."

This work was so highly approved by the Royal Society, that they conferred upon Dr. Brownrigg the singular honour of directing an abridgment of it to be made by Mr. William Watson, a worthy member of that learned Society, which they published in Vol. 46 of their Transactions.

The metal Platina di pinto, juan blanco, or white gold, was the next object of Dr. Brownrigg's attention. The first specimens of this article having been originally carried from Carthagena, in New Spain, to Jamaica, were brought to England in 1741 by Mr. Charles Wood, and were given by him to his relative Dr. Brownrigg, who presented them to the Royal Society in 1750, accompanied with an accurate and ingenious account of its origin and properties, which was inserted in Vol. 46 of their Philosophical Transactions, under the title of "Several Papers concerning a New Semi-metal, called Platina." Platina has been improperly styled

a semi-metal; for, when all extraneous substances are removed, it possesses the distinguishing qualities of a metal, viz., malleability and fixity.

While engaged collecting materials for this paper, my attention was drawn by two of our lady members—Mrs. Leitch and Miss Mitchell—to an article in "Good Words" for July, 1885, from the pen of Mrs. Mary Howitt, entitled, "Some Reminiscences of my Life," in which there is the following notice of Dr. Brownrigg, which appeared to me to be so interesting that I have extracted it at length, and it runs as follows :—

On December 13th, 1750, William Brownrigg, M.D., F.R.S., (through William Watson, F.R.S.,) presented to the Royal Society in London specimens of platina, a new metal hitherto unknown in Europe, and stated in an accompanying memoir: 'This semi-metal was first presented to me about nine years ago by Mr. Charles Wood, a skilful and inquisitive metallurgist, who met with it in Jamaica, whither it had been brought from Carthagena, in New Spain.'

My grandfather, who was thus the introducer of the extremely useful metal, platina, was the brother-in-law of the learned Dr. Brownrigg, residing at the family estate, Ormathwaite Hall, Cumberland. The great-grandfather, Gawain Brownrigg, of Ormathwaite, had married an Irish lady, one of seven sisters, which led to the relationship with the Annisley and Esmonde families. Charles Wood returned home a widower, and married Dr. Brownrigg's sister Jemima, a lively, fascinating lady, who had also been in Jamaica, and was the widow of Captain Lyndon, of the *Dolphin*, a slave ship. She had one son named Roger —another son, Charles, had been lost at sea.

My grandfather built and resided at Low-mill ironworks, near Whitehaven. There his six children by his second marriage were born. From Cumberland he removed to South Wales, and became active in establishing the important Cyfarthfa ironworks, near Merthyr Tydfil.

After my grandfather's death the family continued to reside at Cyfarthfa, Roger Lyndon and his half-brother, William Wood, being engaged in the works. The eldest daughter Mary, *adopted* by her uncle Brownrigg, had remained in Cumberland. She was distinguished for her good looks, and had many admirers, amongst others young Mr. Wilberforce. She did not, however, encourage the addresses of the future renowned philanthropist, from the notion that 'she could do better for herself,' and ended by marrying the Rev. Thomas Wilkinson, vicar of Thetford, Norfolk.

Mrs. Howitt is incorrect in the christian name of Mr. Wilkinson. He published in 1810 "Select Views in Cumberland, Westmorland,

and Lancashire," by the Rev. *Joseph* Wilkinson, rector of East and West Wretham, in the county of Norfolk, and chaplain to the Marquis of Huntley." This is now a rare work, but there are two copies in this neighbourhood which I have seen—one in the possession of Mrs. Stanger of Fieldside, and the other of Mr. Smith of Skiddaw Lodge. It was published by Ackerman, London.

But to return to Dr. Brownrigg's work. In the year 1771, the appearance of the plague in some of the most distant parts of Europe had produced a general apprehension lest it should, as was formerly experienced, very widely extend its fatal ravages. The expediency of amending the laws, as a barrier against this destructive malady, was announced by His Majesty and the whole British legislature. Upon which occasion, Dr. Brownrigg observing their defects, and actuated by principles of duty and humanity, was prompted to offer to the public a treatise entitled "Considerations on the Means of Preventing the Communication of Pestilential Contagion and of Eradicating it in Infected Places." As the apprehension of danger was soon, happily, removed, this treatise and its advice did not receive from the legislature that attention which has since been given to provide more effectual security against the introduction and communication of pestilential contagion.

In the year 1772, Dr. Brownrigg was visited at Ormathwaite by Dr. Franklin, the great American statesman and philosopher, then about sixty-six years of age.

Dr. Brownrigg, in the presence of Dr. Franklin and Sir John Pringle (who was also on a visit at his house) performed an experiment of a very curious nature upon Derwent Lake. On pouring a small quantity of oil into the lake during a great commotion of the water, the surface in a short time became perfectly smooth. This extraordinary effect having been originally noticed by Dr. Franklin, was suggested by him to Dr. Brownrigg. Soon after his departure from Ormathwaite, Dr. Franklin transmitted to Dr. Brownrigg a letter, dated London, November 7, 1773, in which he gave a full and circumstantial relation, not only of every experiment which he had made at different periods for ascertaining

this remarkable property of oil, but also of the various incidents which had led to the discovery. An extract from this letter, and also from two others on the same subject—one from Dr. Brownrigg to Dr. Franklin, and the other from the Rev. Mr. Farish of Carlisle to Dr. Brownrigg—was inserted in Vol. 64 of the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1774.

Through the good offices of our townsman, Mr. F. W. Banks (now resident in London), I had these extracts copied out by one of the officials at the British Museum, as well as an obituary notice of Dr. Brownrigg from the "Gentlemen's Magazine," but I find them too lengthy to insert in full, but extract the following:—

(Extract from a Letter of Dr. Brownrigg to Dr. Franklin, dated Ormathwaite, January 27th, 1773.)

By the enclosed from an old friend, a worthy clergyman at Carlisle, whose great learning and extensive knowledge in most sciences would have more distinguished him had he been placed in a more conspicuous point of view; you will find that he had heard of our experiment on Derwent Lake, and has thrown together what he could collect on that subject; to which I have subjoined one experiment from the relation of another gentleman.

(Extract from a Letter of Rev. Mr. Farish to Dr. Brownrigg.)

I was some time ago with Mr. Dun, who surprised me with an account of an experiment you had tried upon the Derwentwater, in company with Sir John Pringle and Dr. Franklin. According to his representation, the water, which had been in great agitation before, was instantly calmed upon pouring in only a small quantity of oil, and that to so great a distance round about the boat as seems a little incredible. I have since had the same account from others, but I suspect all of a little exaggeration. Pliny mentions this property of oil as known particularly to the divers, who made use of it in his days in order to have a more steady light at the bottom. The sailors, I have been told, have observed something of the same kind in our days—that the water is always remarkably smoother in the wake of a ship that hath been newly tallowed than it is in one that is foul.

Old Pliny does not usually meet with all the credit I am inclined to think he deserves. I shall be glad to have an authentic account of the Keswick experiment; and if it comes up to the representations that have been made of it, I shall not much hesitate to believe the old gentleman in another more wonderful phenomenon he relates, of stilling a tempest only by throwing up a little vinegar in the air.

Mr. Pennant also mentions an observation of the like nature made by the seal-catchers in Scotland (Brit. Zool., Vol. iv.—Article, 'Seal.') When these animals are devouring a very oily fish, which they always do under water, the waves above are observed to be remarkably smooth; and by this mark the fisherman know where to look for them.

(Note by Dr. Brownrigg.)

Sir Gilfred Lawson, who served long in the Army at Gibraltar, assures me that the fishermen in that place are accustomed to pour a little oil on the sea in order to still its motion, that they might be able to see the oysters lying at its bottom, which are there very large, and which they take up with a proper instrument. This Sir Gilfred had often seen performed, and said the same was practised on other parts of the Spanish coast.

(Extract from a Letter of Dr. Franklin to Dr. Brownrigg.)

London, November 7th, 1773.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for the remarks of your learned friend at Carlisle. I had when a youth, read and smiled at Pliny's account of the practice among seamen of his time, to still the waves in a storm by pouring oil into the sea, which he mentions, as well as the use made of oil by the divers; but the stilling of a tempest by throwing vinegar into the air escaped me.

Perhaps you may not dislike to have an account of all I have heard, and learnt, and done.

In 1757, being at sea in a fleet of ninety sail bound against Louisbourg, I observed the wakes of two of the ships to be remarkably smooth, while all the others were ruffled with the wind. I pointed it out to the captain, and asked him the meaning of it. 'The cooks,' says he, 'have, I suppose, been just emptying their greasy water through the scuppers, which has greased the sides of those ships a little.'

Afterwards being again at sea in 1762, I first observed the wonderful quietness of oil on agitated water in the swinging glass lamp I made to hang up in the cabin. An old sea captain then a passenger with me, thought little of it, supposing it an effect of the same kind with that of a little oil put on water to smooth it, which he said was a practice of the Bermudians when they would strike fish which they could not see if the surface of the water was ruffled by the wind. The same gentleman told me he had heard it was a practice with the fishermen of Lisbon, when about to return into the river, if they saw too great a surf upon the bar, to empty a bottle or two of oil into the sea, which would suppress the breakers, and allow them to pass safely. Discoursing of it with another person who had often been in the Mediterranean, I was informed that the divers there who, when under water in their business, need light,

which the curling of the surface interrupts by the refraction of so many little waves, let a small quantity of oil now and then out of their mouths, which, rising to the surface, smooths it, and permits the light to come down on them.

In his retirement at Ormathwaite, among other chemical studies, mineralogy was by no means neglected. His cabinet contained several rare metallic and fossil substances; and he was well acquainted with all the subterraneous productions of Cumberland; which in number, value, and curiosity are not inferior to those of any other county. To the minerals found in the neighbourhood of Keswick he paid particular regard. Having judiciously selected, he carefully analyzed the ores of black jack, i.e. zinc, and black-lead, i.e. plumbago, extracted from the mines at Borrowdale, in order to discover their original properties and qualities; and the public was much disappointed in not receiving the result of his accurate inquiries.

Many of his leisure hours were employed in agricultural improvements, which contributed not only to his private advantage in rendering his own estates more productive, but also to the inhabitants of Keswick and its vicinity; as in consequence of the methods which he suggested of draining and cultivating lands, the fertility of the soil has been considerably increased.

His pupil and biographer, Dr. Dixon, says:—"In this retirement he also indulged that passion for polite literature which had never been entirely sacrificed to more interesting pursuits. Much of his time was devoted to the perusal of the ancient and modern poets, which had often been to him a source of relaxation and amusement when engaged in severer studies. But influenced by religious motives, and admiring sublimity of conception, he read with serious care the sacred poets, whose compositions are far superior in unaffected grandeur of style, genuine pathos, and in elevation of sentiment, to the most celebrated productions of unassisted reason.

"From this general statement it may be properly inferred that Dr. Brownrigg was possessed of every qualification necessary to form a chemical philosopher, a dogmatic physician, and an elegant scholar. By his conduct in a civil capacity, which required

different talents, he acquired additional honour. Long in the commission of the peace, an acting magistrate for the county of Cumberland, he discharged the duties of that important station not less with credit to himself than advantage to the community."

In the "Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 70, part 1, pp. 386-7, there is an obituary notice from which the following extract is taken:—

1800, Jan. 7th. At his seat at Ormathwaite, near Keswick, Co. Cumberland, in his eighty-ninth year, the great and good William Brownrigg, M.D., F.R.S. To this place he had retired about twenty years since, withdrawing himself as much from the practice of phisick as his numerous connexions, his high character, and his friendliness of disposition would permit him; and purposing to divide his time and his taste between the romantic scenery of this delicious spot, and the profounder researches into that department of Natural Philosophy, which was already considered as his peculium. As it was Mr. B's lot to choose his own profession, so he began his career under the most auspicious omens. The medical science of the University of Leyden was at that day shining in its highest noon. Albinus in Anatomy, Euler in Mathematicks, and other great names in the collateral sciences, thronged round the chair of Medicine and Chemistry, so ably occupied by the ingenious and indefatigable, the accomplished and instructive Beorhaave. Having made at Leyden a long and happy residence, and taken an honourable degree, he returned to his native country, and, in Whitehaven, married a lady of singular good sense, much information, and great vivacity; of a disposition most hospitable, manners most polite, of affections most warm and liberal, and possessing an address so versatile and superior as never failed to charm in whatever circle it was exerted.*

He was author of an inaugural treatise, 'De Praxi medica incunda," 1737. Of a treatise 'On the Art of Making Common Salt,' printed at London in 1748, which procured for him the additional F.R.S.; a book now long out of print, but not of recollection, since it is by foreign chemists as well as by natives, by M. Chaptal as well as by our own Dr. Watson, cried up for its profound variety of excellence, and lamented for its scarceness. He also published 'An Enquiry concerning the Mineral Elastic Spirit contained in the Water of Spa, in Germany,' Philos. Trans. Vol. 55; and lastly, a treatise published in 1771, in octavo, 'On the Means of Preventing the Communication of Pestilential Contagion.' All which Dr. B. has effected by producing the various combinations of gases and vapours which constitute atmospheric air, and separating into many forms this long supposed one and indivisible, whilst he solidified its fluid

* This lady was Mary, daughter of John Spedding, Esq., whom he married Aug. 3rd, 1741.

essence into a hard substance. Whatever rapid genius may claim as his own, that Dr. Brownrigg was the legitimate father of these vast discoveries, was not only known at the time to the doctor's intimate and domestic circle, but also to the President of the Royal Society, Sir John Pringle; who, when called upon to bestow upon Dr. Priestly the gold medal for his paper of 'Discoveries of the Nature and Properties of Air,' thus critically observes: 'And it is no disparagement to the learned Dr. Priestly that the vein of these discoveries was hit upon, and and its course successfully followed up, some years ago, by my very learned, very penetrating, very industrious, but too modest friend Dr. Brownrigg.'

To habits, indeed, of too much diffidence, and to too nice scrupulosity of taste, formed, perhaps, in the absence of keen animal spirits, the world has to attribute the fewness of his publications, and the difficulties which always impeded his road to the press. Had our Doctor's productions been allowed to make their own way into the world in due time, many a jay would have been plucked of his plume, and another philosopher of the western hemisphere had not been tempted to publish notes and observations which had been taken down at Ormathwaite, and to give them to the world without the candid addition of the date of their origin.

The writer of this article says he had "grounds for believing that a General History of the County of Cumberland was one of the Doctor's literary projects, and that he had made several arrangements subservient to such an undertaking, particularly in the department of Natural History."

"Advanced in years, and increased in honours as he was, no Swiss ever pined more ardently for his native mountains and lakes than Dr. Brownrigg. The entreaties and solicitudes of the unhealthy, and the anxious prayers of a fond wife, might perhaps have retarded, but could not prevent his departure from Whitehaven, and sole residence at Ormathwaite.

"The Doctor was overjoyed to see his native country become the object of travel, and the topic of praise and admiration; and observed with delight the taste for foreign tours cried down, whilst the new, the romantic, and the remote in our own island lay unexplored. It gladdened the heart of the veteran herbalist to behold young troops of both sexes ransacking the fields for botanic rarities; and he seemed to congratulate with the spirit of Boerhaave when informed that Chemistry, always acknowledged as the most important, was now coming forth as the most popular of the

sciences. To these circumstances of gratification, it was a fortunate accession that at this time, a good scholar, and an amateur of the romantic, and a follower of the muses, by reason of prudence as well as by choice of affection visited the doctor. He was soliciting subscriptions for a Day Book of Antiquities.

"He gained his object, and more than his object; for our doctor finding the reverend Jesuit capable of making a popular book, and not indisposed to incur the labour for the sake of the reward, laid the plan of the Tour to the Lakes, and eagerly set Mr. West forward in the execution. The publication of this little book has answered the purposes of all concerned. It has had a great sale; it has sent shoals of visitors to the neighbourhood of Keswick; and, though the author (so it has pleased Providence) was only allowed a glimpse in prospect of the success of his labours, and, perhaps for the first time in his life, to cherish for a moment the hopes of affluence, the projector of the plan has seen his passion for the improvement and notoriety of Keswick gratified; and the village is now become a post-town, a considerable market for a populous and opulent neighbourhood, and an annual fashionable resort for the learned and the ignorant, the rich and the curious, the young and the old, for him who wants exercise, and for he who is worn out for want of relaxation. To occasional intenseness of thinking, and profound abstraction from external objects, he had always been subject; but as years multiplied, as bodily exercise became irksome, and as, by retiring from public business, he drew back from the occasion of fresh ideas, his intellectual powers seemed to turn the more in upon themselves, and the more eagerly to destroy their own energies. Mrs. Brownrigg was of a delicate frame, and too iritable habits to see without the symptoms of mortal anxiety the melancholy degradation of her husband's understanding. Her earthly existence seemed involved in his mental superiority. As that declined and mouldered away, so did she. And how true were their mutual sympathies may be judged hence, that the last symptoms of worldly feeling which he showed were a flood of tears when the corpse of his excellent wife was

brought forth for her funeral. After this event, he walked about under the care of a couple of valuable relatives, for about five years, a monument of departed genius, but a picture of the most assiduous good manners, of perfect politeness of deportment, and of all the urbanities which adorn the gentleman and the scholar. Strange, very strange, that these manners and dispositions should so long survive the occasions and habits which gave them birth. But stranger still it was, that amidst the general wreck of all thought, and dissolution of every association of sensible ideas, a notion of religion should show itself to the last! Upon his own earnest entreaty, he was allowed by his attendants to resort to the place of public worship. He was precise, collected, devout and fervent, compared with what, a few minutes before, he was without those walls: he seemed as one of the just made perfect. And when he returned, he evinced a power of retaining somewhat of the comforts, as well as the ideas, which God had bestowed from His holy place.

"Indeed the religious sentiment was always uppermost with the good doctor. And in his brightest days, though the classics of Greece, Rome, and Britain were present to his fancy, and enlivened and enriched his conversation, yet the sacred Scriptures were the topics of his delight, and the object of his veneration. And as his quotations of his Virgil and Milton bore testimony to the elegance of his taste and the fervour of his genius, so, when Job and Isaiah were brought forward, he showed what his imagination would aspire at in the ranges of sublimity. In philosophical disquisitions, the *fiat* of God he pronounced to be the last link in the chain of effects and causes; and to the Word of God he bowed as to the first moving power in the system of moral action. In the ordinary occurrence of good things, he never failed to give God the praise; and in the more solemn dispensation, he closed his observations, or repressed his feelings, by a purpose of resignation to God's will. Thus lived and thus died this great and good man."

When Crosthwaite Church was restored by the munificence of the late James Stanger, Esq., a very neat marble tablet was erected

at the east end of the Church by the late John Spedding, Esq., J.P., of Mirehouse, which bears the following inscription :—

WILLIAM BROWNRIGG, M.D., F.R.S.,
A PHYSICIAN AND PHILOSOPHER EMINENTLY DISTINGUISHED,
DIED AT ORMATHWAITE, JANUARY 6TH, 1800,
AGED 88 YEARS.

MARY, HIS WIFE,
THE DAUGHTER OF JOHN SPEDDING OF WHITEHAVEN,
DIED AND WAS BURIED NEAR THIS PLACE,
FEBRUARY 17TH, 1794.

THEY HAD NO CHILDREN.

NOTE.—For the sketch of ORMATHWAITE, the residence of Dr. Brownrigg, I am indebted to my friend Mr. E. I. Grayson of West Cross, Swansea. The detached building was Dr. Brownrigg's laboratory, and little, if any, alteration has been made on the premises since his day.—J. F. C.